

SCOTLAND'S STORY

46

**The Great War:
carnage among
Scottish soldiers**

**Tanks roll into
Red Clydeside**

**Turning point as
wind of change
hits education**

**Heyday of the
shooglie trams**

**John Buchan: born
writer at the heart
of power politics**



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ATLANTIC
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1900

State education develops across the country.



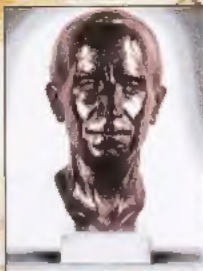
1911

Scottish Exhibition of Natural History, Art and Industry is held at Kelvingrove in Glasgow.



1914

August: War is declared between Britain and Germany.



1915

John Buchan's *The Thirty-nine Steps* is published.



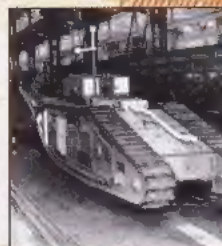
1916

The War descends into a bloodbath, and the Scots suffer heavy casualties.



1918

Germany is forced into retreat and peace is declared.



1917

After years of unimaginable bloodshed, enthusiasm for the War effort wanes.



1919

Government sends in the troops as strike action on the Clyde maintains threat of revolution.



1920

Once a great political force, Liberalism verges on unremitting decline.

**In Part 47:
A society
in conflict**

PART OF
IRELAND

North
Channel

PART
ENGLA



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His most famous creation, Richard Hannay, was the blueprint for James Bond. Buchan's prominence in government as well as his role as a populariser of Scottish culture were also great achievements.

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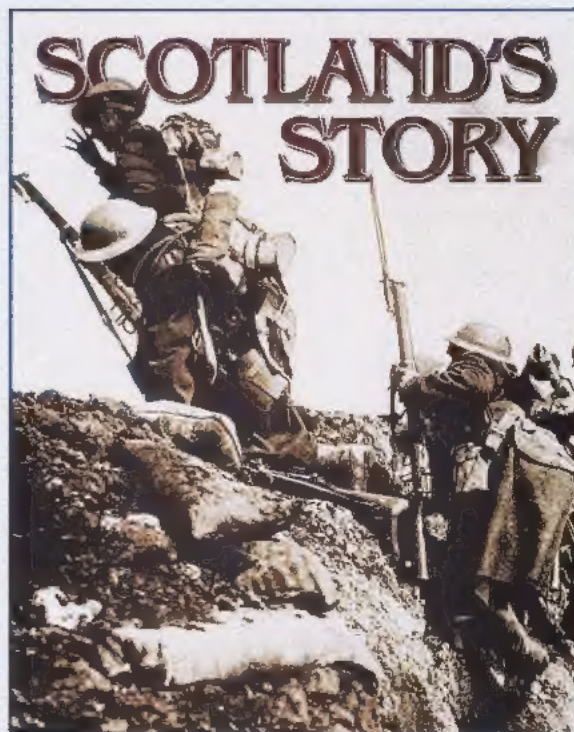
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COMMENT



COVER:
British troops
go "over the
top" from a
trench in
France in
1916.

The horror of the Great War

August, 1914. Europe is about to embark on the bloodiest war in its history by that time. In schoolrooms, universities and publications the powerful idea is expressed that humanity is on a centuries-long march of progress from ancient savagery to modern enlightenment and civilisation.

If this is so, then how could such a monstrous episode in our history have been allowed to happen?

For a small nation, Scotland suffered a disproportionate share of the casualties. Of the 557,000 Scots who enlisted in the war effort, over a quarter lost their lives. This compares to an average death rate of less than 12 per cent for the rest of the British army between 1914 and 1918.

Of the combatant nations, only the Serbs and the Turks had higher per capita mortality rates – and that was primarily due to disease in the trenches rather than losses in battle.

For the soldiers who waited in the rain and mud for the shelling to start and the rifles to fire, the trenches were a living hell.

Amidst the British patriotic fervour that swept Scotland in 1914, there were also concerns

about the justification for such a war. Some socialists objected on the grounds that workers were being asked to give their lives to protect the interests of those who exploited them on a daily basis.

But outright refusal to support the war effort was much less widespread, and in the event most socialists rallied to the cause.

Significantly, casualties among the small aristocratic elite fighting in the Great War were also high, signifying the rapid weakening of aristocratic power that was occurring at the time.

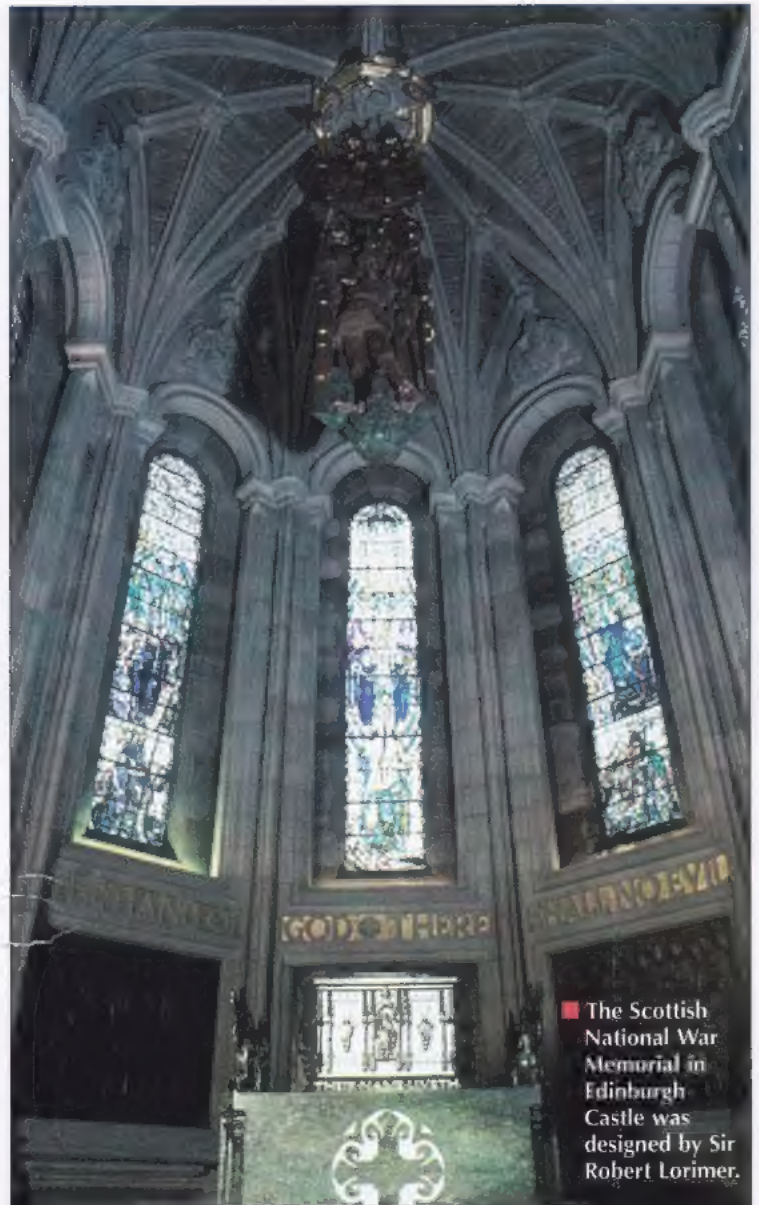
By 1915, the government's incompetent prosecution of the War contributed to a mood of serious disaffection in Scotland. Almost half the population were living in overcrowded conditions and when landlords in Glasgow hiked up rents to try to cash-in on the situation, a rent strike broke out.

There were bitter strikes in Clyde munitions works when it looked as though the government was siding with the bosses during industrial disputes. The situation was not helped when Lloyd George alleged that the 'excessive drunkenness' of the Scots was hampering production.

■ The Black Watch advance through the battlefield at Sanctuary Wood in 1916, caught realistically by artist William Barnes Owen. The regiment put 25 battalions into the field in the First World War and sustained losses of 8,000 with a further 20,000 men wounded. At the end they had gained 69 battle honours and nine heroes had won the Victoria Cross.



Slaughter amid the monstrous anger of guns in a mud hell



■ The Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle was designed by Sir Robert Lorimer.

It was called the 'war to end all wars'. It hurled darkness upon the face of Europe as 15 million people died in a blood holocaust where no lessons were learned

Where in Scotland does the memory of the First World War remain? Around the derelict piers of Scapa Flow? In the rows of names on war memorials? In the stone solemnity of Robert Lorimer's Shrine in Edinburgh Castle? Or elsewhere in Edinburgh, at Craiglockhart – then a hospital, now a university residence? It was here in 1916 that two shell-shocked officers met: Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, and it is through their words, down that long tunnel of time, that most of us still see the strange horror of the Western Front. Owen wrote:

*What passing bells for those who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns,
Only the stuttering rifle's rapid rattle,
Will patter out their hasty orisons.
Far different from the spirit which reigned in*

Scotland in September, 1914 – encapsulated in two wildly popular works, *The First Hundred Thousand* by Ian Hay, and the anonymous but persuasive *Private Spud Tamson*, the tale of a Glasgow 'ned' who wins the Victoria Cross.

If not Berlin by Christmas (Lord Kitchener, of the great poster, created his New Army because he expected a long war) volunteering meant a break in routine, sticking with your pals, and getting away from industries which, with exports collapsing, might be in slump.

Britain was drawn into the war because Germany flouted her guarantee of Belgian neutrality, and also because secret negotiations with the French already determined where the army and navy were to be placed: respectively on the left flank of the French, and in the North Sea.

To fail to mobilise would crown the success of

the Schlieffen Plan: the German army swiftly throttling Paris and then, turning east, concentrating on the slower-mobilising Russians.

The British Expeditionary Force fought where expected, mobilised by Viscount Haldane – the Hegelian-Fabian who had reformed it after 1906. New Army recruits were inspired by the account of German atrocities presented by another Scots jurist, Viscount Bryce.

The BEF, plus an unexpectedly rapid Russian mobilisation which drew troops back east, brought the Germans to a halt on the Marne. Both sides dug in along a front from Belgium to Basel, although only in trenches north of the Vosges.

Up to mid-1916 the British were overshadowed by the French whose appalling generals stressed *elan* (rather than digging in), and got pinned down by the Germans in the salient of Verdun, to be ▶



■ Those Superstitions, sketched by war cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather, catches Private Sandy MacNab pointing out that it is Friday the 13th.

► 'bled dry' by a massive artillery bombardment which reduced the huge concrete fortress to porridge.

In order to take pressure off the French, the British thought up two strategies. The first – Winston Churchill's – was to 'force the Straits', capture Constantinople, and supply Russia through its 'warm water' ports.

But the Dardanelles campaign, as it was called, came unstuck. The

Army commander, Sir Ian Hamilton, Scots and liberal-minded, was outclassed by his Turkish opponent, the young Mustapha Kemal.

There were high casualties, particularly of Australians and New Zealanders, many with Scots forebears, before withdrawal came in December, 1915. The ANZACs never forgot or forgave.

The alternative was strengthened: a huge offensive against the German

front line, to be delivered in mid-1916. Pressure was put on industrial Clydeside to supply guns and shells.

The 'push-and-go' of munitions minister, Lloyd George, and his munitions controller, William Weir, took on the craft-pride of the engineers, and in the background the revolutionary socialist notions of such as John MacLean, in the confrontation of the Red Clyde.

What emerged from this? Rent

control, an expansion of the trade unions, women's liberation (up to a point). And thousands upon thousands of tons of shells – taken south by train and steamer and train again, to the depots in small Picardy villages behind the front.

There, on July 1, 1916, came Britain's greatest ever battle. By the end of the year, about a million, on both sides were dead, and there had lurched on to the shambles of the Somme the first 'land-ships' which would later revolutionise war – the tanks.

Gone was the dream of the cavalry breakthrough, nursed by the senior commander, Sir Douglas Haig – of the whisky dynasty – well connected to court and government, just clever enough to be disastrous. "No Scot ever killed more Englishmen," was one verdict.

From now on, grinding attrition at Arras and Messines, and the horrendous swamp of Passchendaele, would dominate, while after mutinies in 1917, the French stayed on the defensive.

Gone, too, was that other wonder weapon, the Dreadnought battleship. Its moment came on May 31, 1916. The British and German battlefleets clashed off Jutland.

By sinking several British capital ships, the Germans seemed to win – "Laddie, we're done for", the guard on the West Linton train told my old teacher Alex Aitken as he handed out the papers with the news – but the German High Seas Fleet never again left its base. Instead, the enemy went



■ Over the top: another trench, another attack, another moment of wondering who would not come back.

U-boats, mines, sinkings, the need for escort ships and replacements - they all soared production in the Clyde yards

sub-surface with the U-boat and the contact mine.

The sinkings at sea mounted (five million tons went to the bottom in the War) until, in early 1917, Lloyd George forced the Admiralty to provide destroyer escorts for convoys, while the blockade of Germany was enforced by a huge minefield running from the Pentland Firth to the Norwegian coast, completed in 1918.

Both of these had as swift an impact on Scotland as the demand for shells for the western front. The 'Northern barrage' meant a huge traffic of mines and other equipment along the single track of the Highland Railway and the effective military control of Northern Scotland.

The U-boat sinkings created on one hand a demand for standardised merchant ships and new escort vessels, and on the other the organisation of food supply and consumption.

Production at the Clyde yards, at a peak of 672,000 tons in 1911, fell with the diversion of efforts to munitions, then rose even faster to reach 614,000 tons in 1917, with a particularly big increase in engine production (high-speed turbines for cruisers and destroyers).

These joined the tanks, lorries and aircraft - completely new technologies - pouring out of the engineering shops.

But there was an equally dramatic shift in agriculture, away from milk and beef towards cereals and sugar. The last was actually put under ration in 1916.

At the end of that year, after the Somme, perceptive Germans realised that their Empire - 'an Army in search of a State' - was done for. Its only chance lay in the collapse of Russia.

The shop-keeping British had unexpectedly created a powerful, centralised and relatively unbureaucratic war machine.

At the top of its pyramid was



Lloyd George, Prime Minister, after a parliamentary coup in late 1916. By his side the Scots-Canadian Unionists Andrew Bonar Law and Lord Beaverbrook, managers such as Weir, Joseph Maclay and Eric and Auckland Geddes, and trade unionists Arthur Henderson and George Barnes.

This elite, drawn from the north and west, proved the finest hour of the provincial industrialists, the 'men of push-and-go', headed by Keynes' 'goat-footed bard from the woods

and mists of Celtic antiquity'.

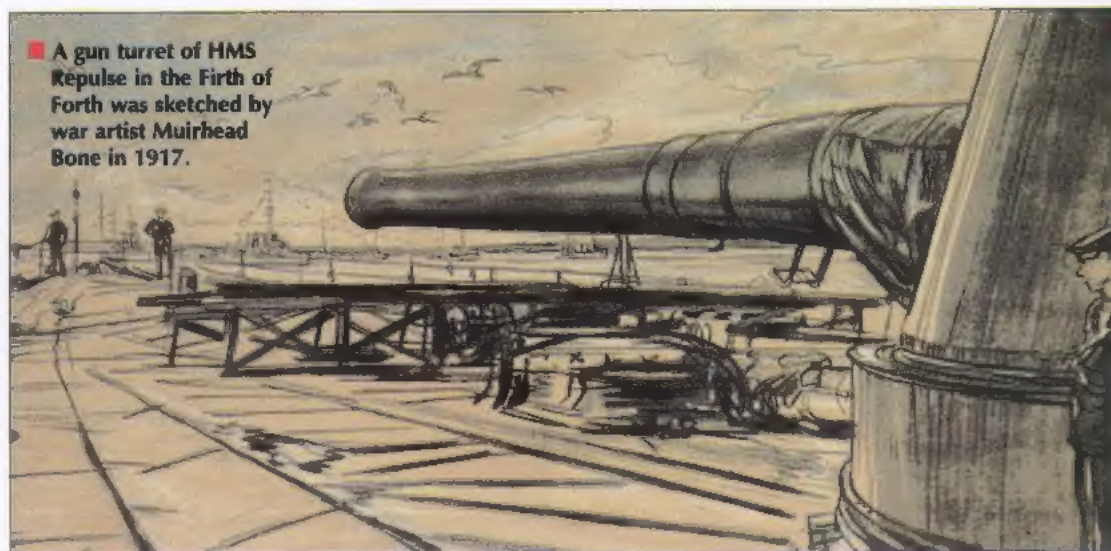
War enthusiasm was flagging by 1917. Participation had to be bought by promoting war aims and democratisation.

In 1917 a Royal Commission on Housing exposed just how awful Scotland's housing stock was. Trade union pressure lay behind the Reform Bill of 1918, which gave the vote to women over 30 and expanded the electorate by a factor of three.

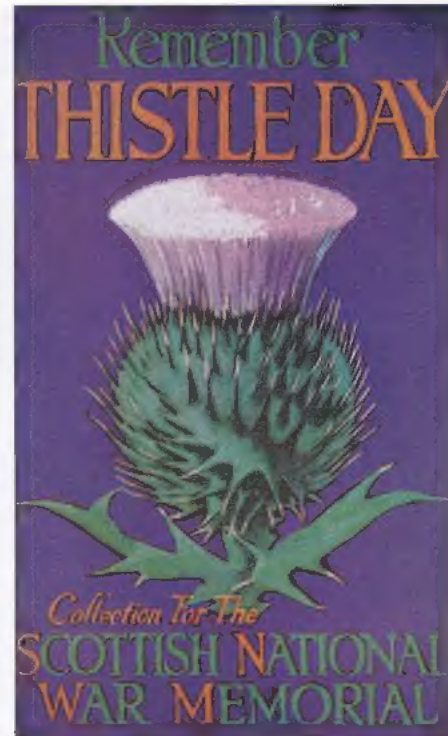
The Education Act of Scottish

Secretary Robert Munro brought the Catholic schools into the state system. By then, however, there had been a final military crisis. The Bolshevik revolution in Russia enabled the German warlord Ludendorff to switch his troops west.

In early 1918 they drove Haig 'back to the wall', threatening Amiens and the link to the Channel ports. But by then American troops had arrived and the Germans simply ran out of supplies and morale. By ▶



■ Sunk! The German fleet scuttled itself in Scapa Flow rather than turn its ships over to the British.



■ The new land ship monsters: more medium, Mark B tanks are almost ready to roll into action.

■ A memorial appeal pamphlet, 1920.

the summer they were in full retreat.

At Versailles, Europe was parcelled out in ethnic nation states, a development which – via Ireland – would affect the Scottish literary renaissance.

Austria had vanished, Russia was devastated; but Germany was one great power in three, where before it had been one out of five: not a

balance which could endure.

Over 100,000 Scots soldiers and sailors would never return.

Numbered among perhaps 15 million dead was also the former patient at Craiglockhart, Wilfred Owen.

He had been rehabilitated by a psychiatrist, A J Brock, who was a disciple of Patrick Geddes, the great Scots sociologist and social planner,

who taught the importance of social harmony and ecology.

Returning to his men at the front, but with ideas of national and social reconciliation, Owen was killed a week before the Armistice.

Three years before, Geddes' great town planning exhibition, bound for India, had been sent to the bottom by the guns of the Emden.

Owen died with ideals, but not

much hope:

*Now men will go content with what we spoiled,
Or discontent, boil bloody, and be spilled.
They will be swift with swiftness of the wiggins.
None will break ranks, though nations trek from progress.*

Such a regression to mechanism and authoritarianism would wake the guns again in 20 years. ●

POETRY OF SORROW

The First World War inflicted terrible misery and suffering on millions. But by the same hand it inspired some of the most moving poetry ever written – works that testify eloquently to the most horrific conflict in modern history.

Alongside the poems of Owen, Sassoon and Yeats, the work of Scotland's Charles Hamilton Sorley powerfully conveys the bitter tragedy of war.

Sorley was born in Aberdeen in 1895 and served in the 7th Suffolk Regiment.

He was killed at Hooge near Ypres in July 1915, and was awarded the Victoria



■ Remembering the dead: The Great War memorial on Iona.

Cross posthumously.

He is perhaps Scotland's finest poet of the Great War. Possibly his most moving poem was *When You See Millions Of The Mouthless Dead*:

When you see millions of

*the mouthless dead
Across your dreams in pale
battalions go,
Say not soft things as other
men have said,
That you'll remember. For
you need not so.
Give them not praise. For,*

*deaf, how should they know
It is not curses heaped on
each gashed head?
Nor tears. Their blind eyes
see not your tears flow.
Nor honour. It is easy to be
dead.
Say only this, "They are
dead."
Then add thereto,
"Yet many a better one has
died before."
Then, scanning all the o'er-
crowded mass, should you
Perceive one face that you
loved heretofore,
It is a spook.
None wears the face you
knew.
Great death has all his for
evermore.*

Heroic, blind rush to the killing field



■ French troops take the last crest at Mont les Singes, 1917, but proportionately Scottish soldiers took the highest casualties in Western Europe.

A whole battalion of the HLI were recruited in two days to meet 'Britain's hour of need'. Then the butchery began - and a generation simply vanished

When Britain went to war with Germany in August, 1914, the country was ill-prepared to fight a prolonged campaign in Europe.

The Regular Army was professional and well-equipped but it was small in number. Men were badly needed and in response to the call for volunteers made by the Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, thousands of Scots flocked to the colours.

In Glasgow, the corporation gave approval for 1,102 men of the Tramways Department to form the 15th Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry (HLI), the city's

local regiment. In September, the Coplawhill depot became a giant recruiting hall and it took just 16 hours to enlist the new battalion.

Encouraged by the scheme's success, permission was given to the city's Boys' Brigade to form the 16th Battalion HLI and a few days later the 17th Battalion HLI was raised at the instigation of Glasgow's Chamber of Commerce with recruits being enrolled in the Lesser Hall of the Merchants' House.

"Never let it be said that the men... funk'd in the hour of Britain's need," commented the leading article in a local paper.

But that togetherness reaped a bitter harvest. More than 500

members of the Boys' Brigade, all from Glasgow and many from the same street or area, died during the Battle of the Somme, which began in July, 1916.

Many of them fell during the first hours of the battle, attacking a German offensive position known as the Leipzig Redoubt. Some of those who survived only lived to die on the Hohenzollern Ridge in November as the fighting drew to a close.

The camaraderie they shared in life was also theirs in death and the monument to the dead of the 51st Highland Division, who fought alongside them on the Somme, echoes that sentiment. It faces Beaumont Hamel, scene of ►

►some of the fiercest fighting, and its inscription would have raised a wry smile from those Boys' Brigade 'pals'. Translated from Gaelic – *La a bhlair's math na cairdean* – it reads, simply, 'Friends are good on the day of battle.'

The Somme was one of the worst battles of the war and it was fought in atrocious conditions. David Rorie, a poet and doctor from Aberdeen, served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and he left a chilling account of the conditions faced by the stretcher bearers as they collected and treated the casualties.

"It was drizzling wet and vilely cold, the trenches in places thigh deep in clay and an awful mess of smashed barbed wire, mud and disintegrated German dead and debris of all sorts.

"In one trench our occupation for half-an-hour was hauling each other out of the tenacious and bloodstained mud; and during our mutual salvage operations we had evidently made ourselves too visible, as the enemy started shelling..."

The fighting over that grim battlefield accounted for an estimated 6,300 Scottish casualties, 15 per cent of the British total of 420,000. Amongst their number the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders and the 5th Cameron Highlanders lost 1,000 men during the attack on Beaumont Hamel on the first day.

On another sector during the same period the 2nd Gordon Highlanders lost 450 men at Mametz and, towards the end of July, the 10th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders suffered 400 casualties during a surprise attack on the German lines at Longueval.

Other battles also produced a butcher's bill. At Loos in September, 1915, the 15th Scottish Division lost many of its men in the opening minutes of the battle when British gas drifted back into their trenches. In spite of this the Scottish regiments pressed home their attacks on the Loos and Lens Redoubts, inspired by Piper Daniel Laidlaw of the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Undaunted by the German barrage he rallied his fellow Scots by marching on the parapet of the trenches in full view of the enemy, playing the bagpipes for all he was worth. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his courage.

It was well-deserved for the attack might not have gone ahead



■ A British Mark IV tank rumbles to the front near Cambrai with infantry advancing in its protection.

without his encouragement – many of the survivors admitted later that they had been "dazed by gas".

Three battalions of the Royal Scots served in the Gallipoli campaign when Turkey, Germany's ally, was attacked in 1915 in order to open a second front. They lost 1,200 men for no tactical gain for within a few months the British and their Australian allies were forced to retreat.

During another retreat, from Mons in 1914, the 1,000-strong 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers, a regular unit, was reduced to 70 fit men commanded by a young subaltern.

At Neuve Chapelle in March, 1915, 900 men of the 2nd Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

went over the top, but six days later it had been reduced to 150 and, like the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the battalion was commanded by a subaltern.

A few weeks later, over the same ground, three battalions of the Black Watch took part in the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Although the 1st battalion took its objective it was forced to retire with heavy losses due to lack of support.

Throughout the fighting the conditions were atrocious.

One of the Cameronians' senior officers noted in his diary: "The constant immersion in cold icy water played havoc with the feet and made them swell to such an extent that at times it was agony to keep on one's boots. To take

them off, however, to gain relief would have been fatal as it would have been impossible to put them on again."

Other regiments have equally heroic, yet tragic stories to tell for none of the Scottish units which fought in the First World War escaped casualties when fighting in the killing grounds of the Western Front, Gallipoli, Palestine or Mesopotamia.

The 7th Royal Scots suffered their first losses before they even reached the front line. Of their number, 217 were killed in a disastrous railway accident at Quintinshill near Gretna Green in May, 1915.

At the war's end it was decided to raise a national monument to commemorate the sacrifice of the Scottish soldiers. It was paid for by the people of Scotland and it was built in Edinburgh Castle to a design by the distinguished architect Sir Robert Lorimer.

Each regiment has its own memorial in the main gallery and there are also memorials to the men and women who gave their lives fighting in the other services – the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, the Royal Flying Corps, the Voluntary Aid Detachment, amongst many others.

"Whatever the final verdict may be," wrote the novelist Ian Hay, who had served in the Argylls, "that vanished generation have left behind them something which neither time can efface nor posterity belittle." ●



■ Home is a trench: the cold, icy water played havoc with soldiers' feet.

Tanks roll on the Clydeside 'Reds'



■ The Illustrated London News reports on soldiers arriving in Glasgow to preserve order in the city on February 1, 1919.

It began with a concern over pay and status, it brought troops to the streets - and it gave the Clyde a controversial label

Speaking to the TUC in September, 1915, Lloyd George, then Minister of Munitions, said, "The War had become a conflict between the mechanics of Germany and Austria and the mechanics of Great Britain and France. It was a war of material."

Clearly the industries of Clydeside - shipbuilding, coal mining, iron and steel, engineering, metal working and chemicals - were of critical

importance, and it has been estimated that as many as 370,000 workers were employed in them during the war.

Furthermore, it was a source of considerable pride in Scotland that prior to the introduction of conscription in January, 1916, she produced a higher proportion of volunteers than any other part of the United Kingdom.

Within 10 weeks, Glasgow provided 30,000 men, 6,000 of

these had signed up over the first weekend when war was declared.

And yet, in spite of all this - and the 18,000 Glaswegians who died under arms - in the aftermath of the War, Clydeside became infamous as a bastion of industrial militancy, socialist politics, anti-war pacifism and even Bolshevism.

Despite the popular enthusiasm, the War would inevitably bring its own problems and tensions. It was widely recognised from a very early ►

► stage that in order to meet the massive demand for munitions the production process would have to be streamlined

In essence, the work of skilled engineers would have to be reorganised and simplified to allow the utilisation of unskilled labour.

This was the process of dilution which so worried the engineers as it threatened their very status as craftsmen and their future earnings potential.

The Treasury Agreement of early 1915 with the skilled unions promised that the status quo would be resumed after the War, but most of the membership were not as sanguine as the national leadership that such a restoration was likely

Alongside the carrot the Government also wielded the stick. The Defence of the Realm Act (DORA), the Munitions of War Act, and the introduction of conscription all meant that the State was exercising a system of control unprecedented in modern British history. It was totally at odds with the traditional Liberal principles of freedom, individual liberty, laissez faire, and free trade

It also cut across the autonomy of the skilled man who was not only threatened by dilution but constrained by the so-called 'leaving certificate', which meant he could not leave one job for another without the permission of his employer

It was this practice which David Kirkwood, one of the leading shop stewards and later Labour MP, likened to 'slavery'.

The first major wartime dispute occurred in February of 1915 when engineers on the Clyde demanded an increase of two pence (less than 5p in today's currency) an hour.

This claim originated prior to the war but the men had been constrained by a three-year agreement with their employers. In a situation of rising prices the men were not prepared to accept the offer of a half-penny and came out on strike. Eventually the situation was resolved in mid-March via Government arbitration and an increase of one penny.

This did not end the unrest, however, and over the next 12 months discontent escalated. The shop stewards who led the February

dispute re-emerged later in the year as the Clyde Workers' Committee (CWC), which became the major focus of industrial militancy and was demonised as part of a German conspiracy to destabilise the war effort

Given this public hostility at the perceived 'treachery' of the engineers, it is interesting to note that men who were actually fighting at the front wrote back to their colleagues encouraging them not to accept the loss of established work practices

The socialists and industrial unionists of the CWC had attempted to turn the demand for dilution into a programme of workers' control. Despite claiming, as Kirkwood did, that this could secure increased output, such socialist experiments were not to be countenanced by the Ministry of Munitions.

Indeed, the Government decided it had to smash the CWC and in the first months of 1916 newspapers were closed down and a series of arrests and deportations of socialists and shop stewards were carried out as dilution was imposed on the Clyde

The Government appointed a Commission to examine the causes of the industrial unrest which found the main cause to be the increased cost of living. While real wages fell between 1914 and 1916, by the spring of 1917 food prices had almost doubled, amid growing resentment at 'profiteering'.

Especially on Clydeside, housing the generally dreadful conditions, the extra pressure on an already overstretched supply and the opportunity taken by landlords to push up rents - exacerbated an already tense situation

Crisis point was reached in the summer and autumn of 1915, ultimately boiling over into the Rent Strike. The heavy-handed actions of house factors - especially the evictions of vulnerable tenants, such as the families of soldiers - ran counter to calls for 'equality of sacrifice' and provoked immediate reactions among neighbours.

Impromptu pickets were arranged, tenement committees formed and, soon, large parts of the city had embarked upon a rent strike that is the withholding of the war time increases. Labour had been



■ 'Revolutionary' leader John Maclean and his family.

campaigning over housing prior to the War and the branches of the Independent Labour Party (ILP) and the Glasgow Women's Housing Association (GWAH) channelled the protest into a more structured movement

The rent strike was, at heart, a housewives' campaign. Defence of the home was the prime responsibility of the wife and mother, especially so in wartime with so many men away

The willingness of the women to physically confront and even assault male figures of authority gave the rent strike much of its drama and impact

Moreover, housing was an issue more likely to unite people than the struggle over dilution which was inherently sectional as craftsmen sought to guard their privileges against unskilled men and women.

For the Government the main concern was that the unrest over

housing would spill over into the workplace. The decision by a factor in Partick to prosecute 18 of his tenants brought matters to a head

On the day of the proceedings, November 17, there were strikes in support of the defendants and huge numbers of women, children and men assembled in George Square

Inside the court the tenants refused to accept an adjournment but resolved to force the issue. Eventually, the prosecution capitulated and the cases were dismissed

Ten days later the Government introduced a Bill which would restrict increases on houses of an annual rent of £30 or less for six months beyond the duration of the war

Ten days before Christmas the Rent Restriction Act became law. However, for the remainder of the war unrest continued. Most historical accounts regard the

Profiteering, appalling housing conditions and landlords pushing up rents exacerbated an already tense situation into a crisis point

The Government deemed it 'A Bolshevik rising' ... next morning the army was in occupation

battle over dilution in early 1916 as the end of disputes on Clydeside but more recent research indicates that, similar to the pre-war years, unrest, significant numbers of legal strikes continued afterwards

Evictions were still enforced and there were constant disputes over the issue of the leaving certificate played out at the Munitions Tribunals

In Glasgow, anti-war propaganda was maintained throughout the war years, and as the carnage continued opposition became more vocal

The main figure was John Maclean who continued to hold public meetings (in spite of periodic imprisonment), and gradually moved from an anti-war position to revolutionary opposition to the War

Enthused by the Russian Revolution, Maclean began to make Glasgow 'a Petrograd' and revolutionary storm centres sprang up to none

The fear of Government and the hope of Maclean was that the grievances of the people would develop into an opposition to the War itself. There never was a strike against the War, but an anti-war weariness did develop with political dimensions to a matter

An unofficial strike was arranged to celebrate Maclean in 1918 and the 9th demonstrators appeared in an end to hostilities, the release of Maclean from prison for the Russian Revolution

The most dramatic event, however, occurred as the war was over - the Forty Hours Strike of January-February, 1919

The demand for a shorter working week was stimulated by fears that the cessation of hostilities and the demobilisation of millions of soldiers would cause mass unemployment. Consequently the CWC took an active role in mobilising thousands of workers

A mass demonstration was held in George Square on Friday, January 31, to hear what was to be the Government response

While the strike leaders were inside the City Chambers the police charged the crowd which retaliated



■ Clydeside worker power: the red flag flies in George Square, Glasgow, during the riot of January 31, 1919.

by throwing bottles from a lemonade lorry parked handily nearby, and the police responded with further baton charges. Amongst those knocked down were Kirkwood and Willie Gallacher, future Communist MP for West Fife

The Government had already reached its decision which was not to intervene in the strike, strengthen the military presence in the area, and make preparations for the possible arrest of the strike leaders

As the Cabinet discussed the situation on the Friday afternoon, the Secretary of State for Scotland said: "It was a misnomer to call the situation in Glasgow a strike, it was a Bolshevik rising"

The next morning Glasgow woke to find the army in occupation and tanks stationed in the Cattle Market. Clydeside's reputation for militancy was now permanently fixed

Was there the likelihood of a revolution? Almost certainly not. But the episode was also more than just over-reaction on the part of a nervous Government

It is only in hindsight that stability appears as inevitable

Those in authority had good

reason to feel nervous, given the international situation - the Russian revolution and attempted revolutions elsewhere, such as the Spartacist rising in Berlin, occurring at the same time as the Glasgow strike - and the internal uncertainties about the industrial workforce and the millions of

fabrication and that each event must be regarded as a distinct episode. Such analysis reveals Red Clydeside as a 'myth' or 'legend'. Yet, this will not do. The links between the industrial, housing, and anti-war movements are there, even if not in the form of a revolutionary master plan. A new, more class-based politics emerged out of the War

The Liberal Party dominant for most of the previous century - entered a more or less terminal decline as Labour began its journey to eventual dominance

In this shift the figure of the articulate and pugnacious Clydeside shop steward was to become part of the modern folk lore of Scotland. Yet, in many respects it was the Glasgow housewife who was to

provide the most enduring legacy of Red Clydeside

The Rent Strike forced the Government to accept responsibility for housing rather than simply leaving it to the dictates of the market. This led directly to Lloyd George's promise of 'Homes for Heroes' and the construction of council houses - which, in turn, left their mark on so much of 20th century Scotland



■ Revolutionaries on trial, 1919: among those in court were Manny Shinwell, Willie Gallacher and David Kirkwood.

soldiers about to re-enter civilian life

In much of the literature of this period, especially in the memoirs and biographies of major figures such as Maclean and Gallacher, the events of the War and immediately after are presented as part of a single movement and the sense of an impending revolutionary outbreak is constantly present

Some authors insist that this is

Millions roll up for the greatest show on earth



■ This was how Glasgow's famous Hunterian Museum looked in the grounds of the Old College when it was painted by Thomas Shepherd in 1829.

Pictures and stuffed animals were the first exhibits, then Edinburgh put on an international whopper - and Glasgow rose to the challenge. Kelvingrove became a European exhibition centre of the exotic on a mind-blowing scale

Although the promotion of Scotland's great museums and exhibitions tends to be associated with the late 19th and early 20th centuries, displays of assorted artefacts, art works and natural history specimens were by no means a new phenomenon

For instance, Edinburgh's National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland was founded in 1780, and two years later the Museum of Natural Curiosities was opened by Alexander Weir on South Bridge Street

The latter was a showcase for unusual 'Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes, and Insects' skilfully preserved to appear as life-like as possible, and advertised to the public as 'a fund of the most rational amusement, as well as instruction, that the human mind can conceive'

A similarly educative purpose lay behind the extensive bequest of William Hunter to Glasgow University in 1781. A wealthy physician and

surgeon, Hunter left sufficient money in his will to provide for a custom-designed building to display his celebrated collection. By 1807 the classically inspired Hunterian Museum was ready for visitors, one of the first institutions of its kind in Britain dedicated to encouraging popular interest in the arts and sciences

Exhibitions were another consciousness-raising device, although less permanent than museums and with far greater commercial emphasis. The concept had evolved at the turn of the 19th century from the efforts of French traders and manufacturers to demonstrate the distinctive quality of their national products

In England, the Royal Society of Arts had also established a tradition of displaying arts, crafts and inventions, with a dual educative and economic function. Prince Albert, the Society's President and consort of Queen Victoria, played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the innovative and

■ Glasgow's magnificent Kelvin Grove Park Art Gallery and Museum was partly funded by the great international exhibition of 1888.

imposing Great Exhibition of 1851. Held in London's Hyde Park, this was the first major international exhibition and had an enduring influence on the aesthetics and architecture of display.

Ten years later, in Edinburgh, the Prince laid the foundation stone of the Industrial Museum of Scotland, now the Royal Museum of Scotland. Its Main Hall opened, in striking emulation of Sir Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace, the focal point of the 1851 exhibition. Scotland's latest public showpiece was attracting 460,000 visitors.

Although the Prince died in 1842, his association with the ethical and cultural improvement and technological progress that have resonance for Scots.

One elaborate triumph was Dundee's Albert Square, designed from 1864. The Square, the city's centrepiece, the Albert Square, was designed in Gothic Revival style by George Gilbert Scott and regarded as 'the grandest Albert Square outside London'. It was a place for art galleries, museums and an integral part of the city's life.

The acquisition of the city's community assets demonstrated the city's preoccupation with providing wholesome and recreation for the masses. By the late 19th century they also provided an expression of civic pride.

No self-respecting city could afford to ignore the embellishment of the city's landscape, and museums and art galleries added advantage to the city's history and achievements. Glasgow's municipal museum, the Industrial Museum, was housed in Kelvingrove Park with a view

Described as 'a humble enough affair to begin with', keen public interest encouraged the expansion of the collections, to the extent that there was soon not enough space to display them.

The vogue for exhibitions took off after the success of the 1851 Exhibition. Park extravaganzas, although it was the French Expositions Universelles that set the standard for other nations to follow.

Enterprising Scots closely



monitored developments overseas, the consolidation of the European railway network easing opportunities for travel to the great urban centres. Small scale exhibitions even took place in Scotland, such as Glasgow's Industrial Exhibition, opened by the Duke of Argyll in December, 1865.

However, more ambitious ventures, to rival the English and Continental efforts, were organised towards the end of the century. In 1886 James Gowans, a railway engineer and civic activist in Edinburgh, was the driving force behind the city's International Exhibition of Industry, Science and Art.

Three hectares of the Meadows, Edinburgh's traditional public space, were laid out with specially created promenades and pavilions. The main exhibition centre, the monumental steel, stone and glass Grand Hall, could accommodate 10,000 people.

A striking innovation was the

The Victorians set themselves the task of providing wholesome and elevating recreation for the masses. They were expressions of civic pride

3,200 electric lamps that illuminated the building. Alongside state-of-the-art technology a lavish recreation of 'Old Edinburgh', around the time of Mary, Queen of Scots, gave retrospective focus to the pioneering 'Show in the Meadows'.

The Edinburgh exhibition was a popular and critical success, attracting nearly 2.8 million visitors in the six months it was opened. In typically combative style the city fathers of Glasgow determined that they could out-do Scotland's capital, and plans were quickly inaugurated in the west to promote a second international exhibition to be held in 1888.

Kelvingrove Park, designed by Sir

Joseph Paxton in the city's fashionable West End, was the location of this ambitious undertaking. The Glaswegian flair for public relations meant that the event caught the popular imagination, attracting 5.5 million visitors.

A penchant for the theatrical was prominently on display, notably the Moorish inspired Main Building, solidly constructed of galvanised sheet-iron and brick. As the self-proclaimed 'Second City of the Empire', the imperial dimension was also a prime feature of the 1888 exhibition.

Thus, an 'Indian Street' attempted to recreate the bazaar like



■ Whales jawbone entrance to Edinburgh's Meadows 1886 Exhibition.

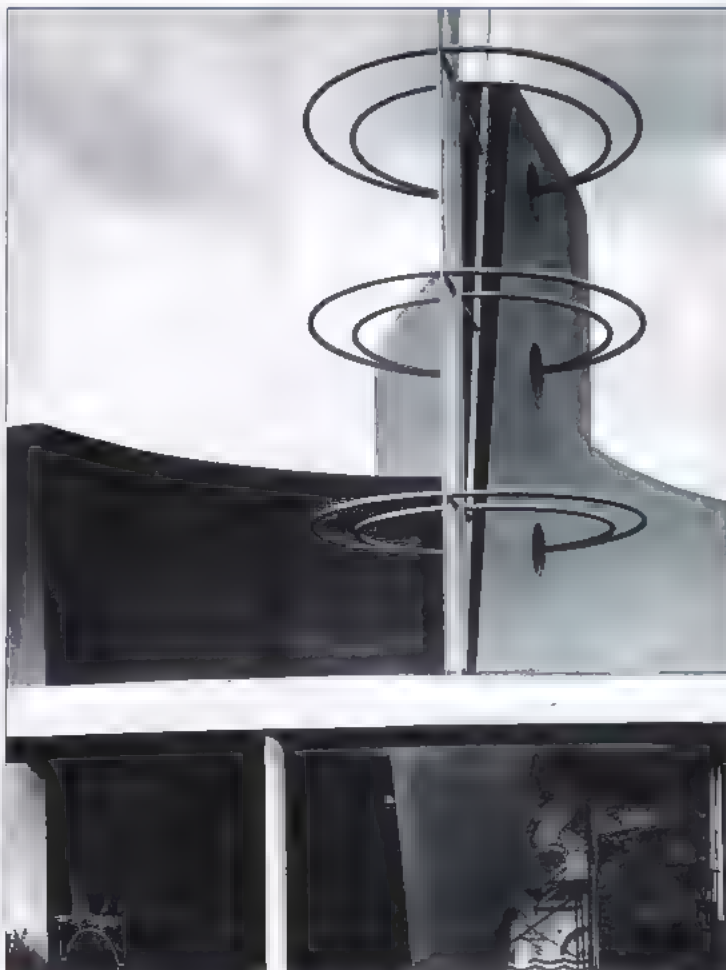
► atmosphere of the Orient, while Indian and Ceylon tea rooms offered suitably exotic refreshment

A practical function of the 1888 exhibition had been to raise funds for a more commodious municipal Art Gallery and Museum, given that there was nothing of sufficient magnitude in Glasgow to display the city's growing cultural pretensions

In 1901 the completion of a substantial, Renaissance inspired, red sandstone edifice, at a cost of £257,000, was the

occasion for yet another celebratory exhibition in Kelvingrove. Although similar in style to the previous enterprise, there was even more of an Empire focus, with particular emphasis on the 'civilising' influences of imperial trade and culture

However, Glasgow's status as one of Europe's most populous cities, with over three quarters of a million inhabitants, was also an important factor in the promotion of the exhibition. Underlying the bravura was concern about Glasgow's ambiguous reputation as a great industrial centre, yet



■ Modern design was reflected in Glasgow's Empire Exhibition of 1938.

with deeply- entrenched social problems, especially relating to housing and overcrowding

The need to display the assertive, outward-looking focus of the city was thus a priority of the exhibition organisers. Accordingly, Glasgow's grey and industry scarred landscape was momentarily transformed by the glittering exhibition environment, creating an altogether more favourable image for the thousands of visitors who descended on the verdant grounds of Kelvingrove

The positive experience of the 1888 and 1901 exhibitions meant that Glasgow became established as

one of the major European centres for such events

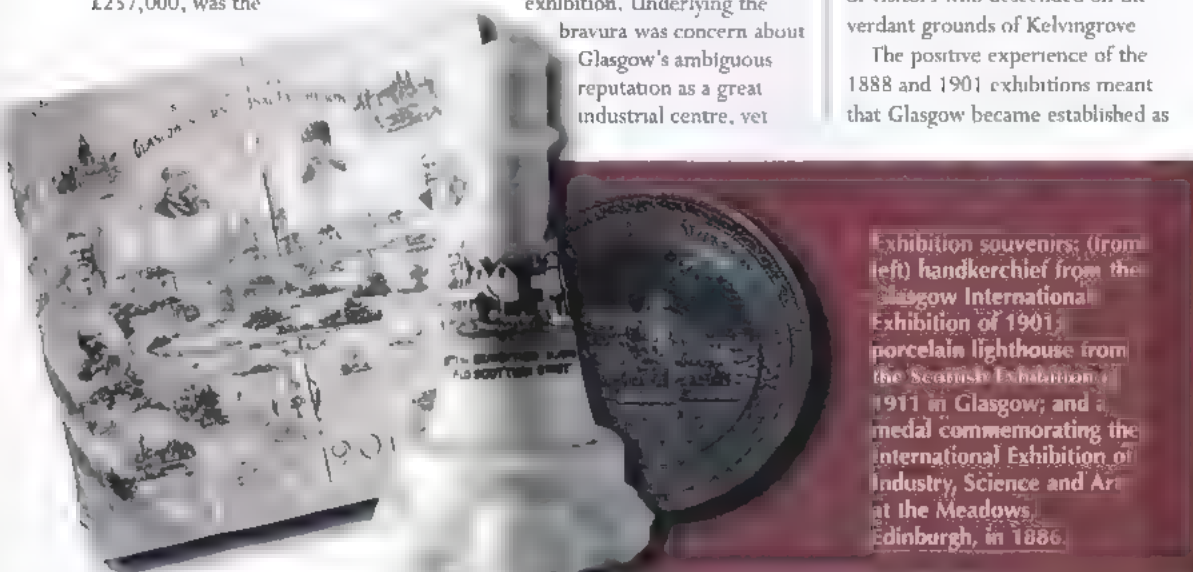
With a strong civic tradition and a keen awareness of the powerful appeal of history and progress as a selling point to the public, it was scarcely surprising that yet another exhibition was held in Kelvingrove in 1911

The Scottish Exhibition of National History, Art and Industry was qualitatively different from its predecessors as it focused distinctively on Scottish culture. Indeed, a prime objective was to raise funds for the endowment of a Chair in Scottish History and Literature at Glasgow University

The exhibits projected an eclectic and idealised view of Scotland's past. Nostalgia figured forcefully in an ersatz recreation of a lowland burgh town ('the Auld Toun'), complete with Auld Tartan Shop and other tourist attractions

An Clachan, the exhibition's Highland village, was another picturesque recreation, although the caged wildcat sullenly on display perhaps symbolised more about the taming of the Highlands than the organisers intended

In 1914 war cut starkly across the



Exhibition souvenirs: (from left) handkerchief from the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1901; porcelain lighthouse from the Scottish Exhibition of 1911 in Glasgow; and a medal commemorating the International Exhibition of Industry, Science and Art at the Meadows, Edinburgh, in 1886.



■ Dundee's Albert Institute Library was the 'grandest' outside London.



■ The crowds gather for the 1938 Empire Exhibition in Glasgow.

Glasgow's grey, industry-scarred landscape was transformed into a world of glitter, science art and history

exhibitionary moment in Scotland, and the climate of war depression at the time made it inappropriate for the demonstrations of cultural confidence. However well publicised, morale-boosting events like London's 1924 British Empire Exhibition impressed Scots with the importance of making the most of their resources, even during times of adversity.

The 1938 Empire Exhibition, held this time in Glasgow's Bellahouston Park, was striking testimony to the city's determination to overcome the negative image it had acquired in the wake of the war.

The idea of the exhibition was

first promoted by the Scottish National Development Council to impress the world that there was a national mood of economic revival. The soaring Tower of Empire, set on the crest of Bellahouston Hill, was architect Thomas Tait's elegant riposte to the claim that modernity was passing Scotland by.

Aesthetically, the exhibition was breathtakingly innovative, the pastel coloured Art Deco surroundings and gleaming night time illuminations showing again that Glasgow could be transformed into something special.

Despite the continuing focus on Empire, there was also clear recognition that the balance of imperial power was changing. As the official guide to the exhibition put it, the event served as 'a clarion call to the scattered family of the British Commonwealth of Nations to come and talk as a family over the old days and old ways'.

The 1938 Empire Exhibition looked forward to the future, with novelty and new technology as a key theme, although the reprise of An Clachan from 1911 was a sign that a sense of nostalgia was still pervasive in Scotland.

On the other hand, the Hebridean

cottage on display belied its traditional exterior with 20th century conveniences such as drains, piped water and electricity.

Over 12.5 million visitors savoured the attractions of the two Palaces of Industry, the International Pavilions, the National Fitness Pavilion (demonstrating 'dancing, rhythmic exercises and recreative games'), plus a range of amusements, organised by holiday camp entrepreneur Billy Butlin. All this was over six days a week, as Sabbatarian pressure had ensured the exhibition's closure on Sundays.

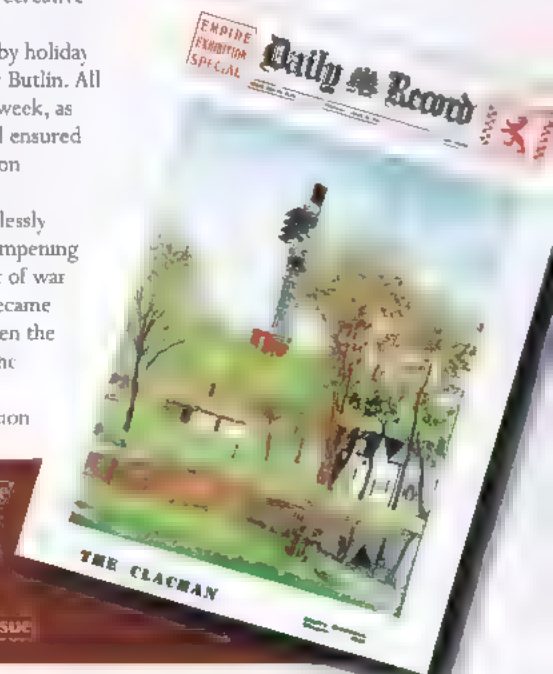
Along with the relentlessly wet weather, another dampening feature was the prospect of war with Germany, which became uncomfortably close when the Munich crisis broke in the autumn of 1938.

It was as if the exhibition

represented the end of an era for Scotland, a surge of colour and spectacle before the sombre clouds of war descended.

Symbolically, Tait's Tower had to be dismantled, its prominence all too readily identifiable as a target in the event of enemy bombing. ●

■ The Clachan of the Empire Exhibition, Glasgow, in 1938 makes the front page of the Daily Record's special issue.



Scotland's auld love

■ View from the top: Lloyd George, charismatic leader of the Liberal Party, takes in the grand perspective from the summit of a Welsh mountain.



The Liberals were the major political force in Britain – and Scots were at the heart of it. Then slowly their fortunes began to ebb...

From the passage of the Great Reform Act in 1832 until the end of the First World War, Scottish politics were dominated by the Liberal Party and, to an extent, the Liberal party was dominated by Scots.

Despite the deficiencies of the 1832 Reform Act, the principal result of the extension of the Scottish electorate was to usher in an era of Liberal domination of Scottish politics.

At the election in 1832 the Liberals won 43 out of the 53 Scottish constituencies, and this set the pattern

for the rest of the century. It was not until the election of 1900 that the Liberals conceded their majority in Scotland.

During the period from 1837 to 1857 there were five elections and the Liberal performance dipped from the peak of 1832 to a trough at the election of 1837 when only 31 seats were taken.

By 1857, when 39 seats were held by Liberals, the position had almost been recovered.

In this period the party faced stresses from the political fall-out from

the 'Ten Years Conflict' and Disruption in the Church of Scotland. The Conservatives faced more serious problems over the issue of free trade versus protection, although it was less important in Scotland than in other areas of the United Kingdom.

The next five elections from 1859 to 1885 saw the Liberal Party benefit from such positive features as the campaigns for electoral reform, the growth of organised party politics, growing confidence among the middle classes of urban Scotland and international influences including the

affair with the Libs

victory of the North in the American Civil War

These years saw further peaks for the Liberal Party in Scotland, at the General Election of 1868, the first after the Second Reform Act which had extended the urban electorate and increased the number of Scottish seats to 58, the Party (and the term can be used with greater confidence in this era) won 51 seats

Even more remarkable was the victory after the electoral reforms of 1884 and 1885 when the Liberals, led by William Gladstone, won 62 of the 70 Scottish seats

This was, indeed, a high point for Scottish Liberalism as it came just before the Party was divided by the dispute over Irish Home Rule, which saw the creation of a rival Liberal Unionist grouping, and moved ever closer to the Conservatives, until the two parties were merged in 1912

From 1868 to 1894 the Liberal Party, indeed British politics, were dominated by the irresistible figure of William Gladstone

The Grand Old Man, as he came to be known, was idolised and demonised in almost equal measure during his long political career.

Gladstone sought to give moral purpose to politics, not least in his great campaign over Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria in the 1870s, and in his election campaigns in Midlothian in 1879-1880

In a series of powerful speeches he

Gladstone, the Grand Old Man, was both idolised and demonised in equal portions

excoriated the foreign policy of his great rival, Lord Beaconsfield (Benjamin Disraeli), and set new standards for communicating political ideas to a mass audience through a sophisticated understanding of, and close relationship with, the Press

Although Gladstone was speaking to an audience much wider than the electorate of Midlothian, it is difficult to imagine a part of the United Kingdom better suited to his message than Presbyterian Scotland, which invested so much energy in the cultivation of its own moral fibre

After 1886, the Liberals were threatened, especially in the West of Scotland by the Unionist variety of Liberalism, which captured 17 seats in 1886 and again in 1900

Liberalism was not broken, however, and was capable of stunning victories, such as that of 1892 when 50 seats were won, or most famously in 1906 when an energised party triumphed over the Conservatives – who were once more divided over fiscal policy – to take 58 seats in Scotland

Interestingly, as Liberal strength ebbed in England at the two elections of 1910, support remained solid and the party entered the Great War with 58 Scottish seats

A striking feature of



■ Noble Lord: Rosebery gave unwavering support to Gladstone.

Liberalism in this period was its ability to sustain the diversity of the points of view which came under its umbrella. This was particularly important in fighting off the challenge from the incipient Labour movement

Despite some organisational innovations, such as the formation of the Scottish Labour Party in 1888, the Labour movement was slow to develop in Scotland, not making an electoral impact until after the First World War

One important reason for this was the strength of Liberalism. It was difficult to persuade the skilled working class in Scotland that they would gain by abandoning their loyalty to Liberalism

Even some of the leaders of the early Labour movement in Scotland, such as John Ferguson, retained their own personal commitment to the Liberal party

The Liberals seemed to have the best policies on the issues which

dominated politics, most notably the land question, which had a very wide social significance in both urban and rural Scotland in the late 19th century

Although Irish Home Rule, resulted in the division of the party in 1886, it was an important factor in the Liberals' popularity among the largely working class Irish community in Scotland, although the loyalty of this group was similar to Scots of comparative social status

The years of Liberal strength were characterised by the fact that the party was an extremely broad church. They had always had two extremes, whose divergent energies were difficult to contain within the one party

The Whigs, whose ambition was stability, pulled the party in a very different direction from the radicals who sought change, both to the electoral system and to society, and who attempted to link the Liberal party with the emerging forces of



■ The banner carried by the joiners in the Leith Jubilee Reform Procession in 1832. It was after this time the Liberal Party began to dominate British politics.

Argyll resigned in horror over the Irish Land Act and spoke out for his class against a threat of radicalism

► the middle class in the 1850s and 1860s and of the skilled working class in the later 19th and early 20th centuries

A neat, although simplistic, distinction can be drawn between often aristocratic Whigs who idealised the past and more socially-diverse radicals who sought refuge in the future

Scotland contributed some powerful personalities to both wings

In the years when the party was coming together as an organised force in the 1850s and 1860s Duncan MacLaren, one of the MPs for Edinburgh, was known as the 'Member for Scotland'

This nickname signified his energy in drawing attention to Scottish issues in a period when they were perceived to have been particularly neglected by Westminster politics.

Scottish politics also had a strong tradition of Whigism, from Jeffrey and Cockburn in the 1830s to the 8th Duke of Argyll and Lord Rosebery in the later years of the 19th century

These two figures demonstrate that the Whigs were themselves a diverse force. Argyll was one of the last great grandees of Scottish politics, his family controlled the representation of the Argyllshire seat

until 1885, with two of his sons representing it in succession in the 1870s and 1880s

Argyll's own career peaked in Gladstone's first administration, from 1868 to 1874 when he held the Office of Secretary of State for India

When Gladstone returned to power in 1880, he was again appointed to Cabinet Office, this time as Lord Privy Seal, before resigning in horror at the Irish Land Act of 1881, which he saw as an unnecessary interference with the rights of property and an unfortunate capitulation to the violent agitation of the Irish Land League.

After his resignation Argyll became the spokesman for his class against a perceived rising tide of radicalism. The Duke is an example of a Whig who the party could not conciliate

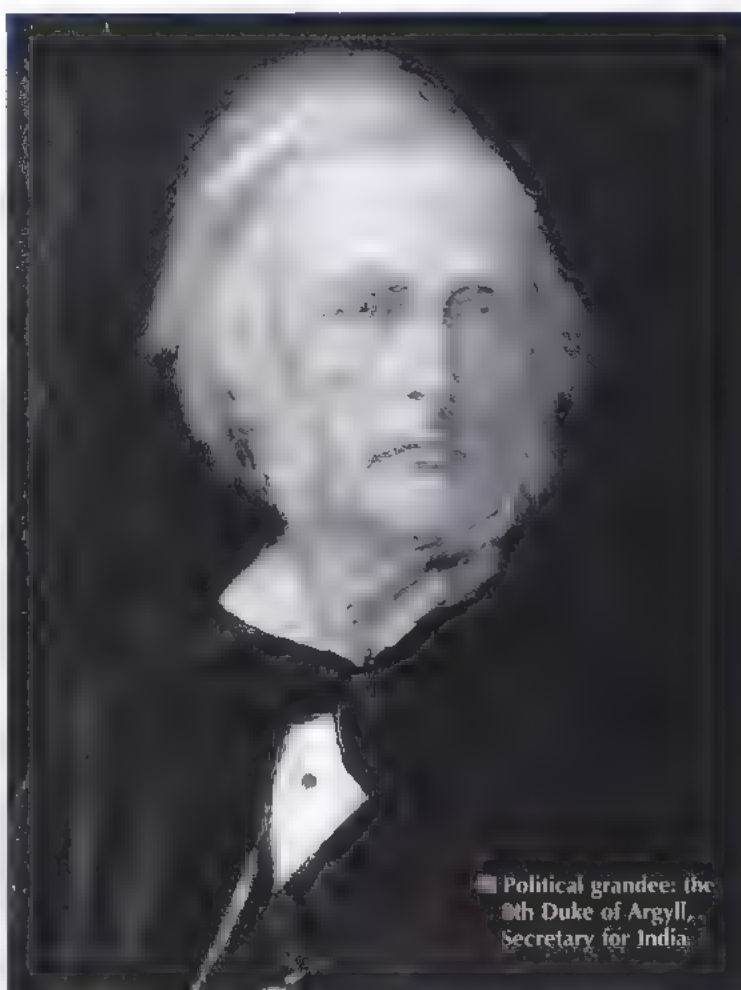
On the other hand, Lord Rosebery is an example of a Whig politician who was prepared to swim with the tide of political change

He took a particular interest in establishing the Office of Scottish Secretary in the early 1880s, but the most important feature of his political career was his deep loyalty to William Gladstone

Despite his own personal doubts about the cause of Irish Home Rule, Rosebery did not leave the Grand Old Man's side at the moment of truth in 1886

He twice served as Foreign Secretary and succeeded to the office of Prime Minister when Gladstone retired in 1894. His own premiership was a disappointment and the party was heavily defeated at the general election of 1895

Henry Campbell Bannerman continued the Scottish Liberal



Political grandee: the 8th Duke of Argyll, Secretary for India

heritage. Although CB, as he was known, was Prime Minister from the great Liberal victory of 1906 until just before his death two years later, his most lasting contribution was carefully patching up the party after the difficulties it encountered during the Boer War

An imperialist wing of the party, led by Rosebery, revelled in the conflict while more pragmatic figures, although careful not to criticise war aims, voiced disquiet over the conduct of the conflict, especially in relation to the civilian population in South Africa

Campbell Bannerman, in a brave speech, denounced the concentration camps as methods of terrorism. Although he profited from Conservative party divisions it was no mean feat of leadership to take the party from the defeat of 1900 to the victory of 1906

The War years saw the beginning of coalition government, the continuation of a Conservative dominated coalition in the period from 1918 to 1922 exposed weaknesses in Scottish Liberalism

Divisions between Lloyd George and Asquith in the 1920s presented mixed messages to the electorate and the party retreated to its rural

hinterlands in the Highlands and the Borders

Another Conservative dominated coalition was formed in 1931 and was the cause of further Liberal disunity. The end of the road was reached in 1945 when the Liberal Party was unable to win a single Scottish seat. The National Liberals, a hangover from the National Government of the early 1930s and soon to merge with the Conservatives, held one seat at the 1945 election

The period from 1945 to 1970 was one of two-party politics, and the Liberals found it difficult to compete in such an environment, although some rebuilding was achieved under the leadership of Jo Grimond, the MP for Orkney and Shetland

Scots retained an important place in the development of post-war Liberalism, not least in the figure of the former rugby hero of the 1920s, John M. Bannerman. Nevertheless, after the First World War Liberalism was no longer a party with nationwide appeal in Scotland. The rise of class based politics and a new political agenda in the inter-war years meant that the conditions which had fostered the domination of Scottish politics by the Liberal Party were a distant memory. ●



Even Scots rugby hero John M. Bannerman could not stop the decline.

Turning point that changed schooling



■ Barefoot in Campbeltown: a minister takes boys on an outing to Argyll around 1900. Catching the 'godless poor' young was church policy.

Churches played a leading role in education, but it was hit-and-miss and not everyone could even write their name. It all changed with the Act of 1872...

For boys and girls in 19th century Scotland there was a great variety of schools or, one should rather say, places of instruction and learning.

The choices encompassed a wide range of bodies offering quite unfathomable variations in educational content with variable levels of attendance to match.

Industrial and factory schools, reformatory schools, the parish schools dotted throughout the countryside and, in the towns and cities, the burgh schools and the endowed schools.

In the early decades of the

century, schools part-funded by the Church of Scotland, and a small contribution from the pupils, were the most prevalent form of education.

More successful in the countryside than in the towns, they were overburdened, too few, and too poorly focused to cater for the rapid movements in population which accompanied industrial growth.

Pupils stayed on average three or four years longer in school in the countryside, while the ability to write one's name on a marriage register varied greatly by region,

although the figures for Scotland overall tended to be higher than in England.

The key moment in the history of Scottish education in the 19th century, if it is ever valid to search for such a turning point, is the Education (Scotland) Act of 1872.

Here elementary education was made compulsory for children aged between 5 and 13. The Act was a long time coming, and eventually took two years longer than reform in England.

Three bills advocating non-sectarian education were presented before parliament in the 1850s, and ►

Ideals were to the fore in the 1854 resolutions: 'The best qualified teachers should be eligible without regard to sect or party.'

► more attempts would follow prior to 1872

Here is some flavour of the demand, from 1854, published as 'The Resolutions and Speeches at the Public Meeting on National Education addressed to the friends of a Religious System of Education'

The first resolution stated "That no system of Education which is sectarian or exclusive, or which operates by means of Privy Council grants to different churches or associations, can be said to be efficient; that to be really so, the system must be national, and not denominational, and that under such a system the best qualified teachers should be eligible without regard to sect or party."

Welded to this debate was an influential argument which had gained momentum since the 1830s that unless the Protestant churches could agree common cause, then Catholicism and secularism would win through

It was an emotive piece of rhetoric which gave colour to the more usual pedagogic arguments, especially when added to anxiety over the social consequences of youngsters no longer brought up God fearing, and of a mass of unemployed and under-employed teenagers

By the 1850s, religiosity rather than doctrinal coherence was deemed more germane to the promotion of a national education

system, but this argument struggled in the face of the Catholic-Protestant divide, as well as the splits within Presbyterianism

The removal of religious tests for teachers in 1861 was, however, an important step along the way

Throughout this period, and even beyond 1872, the Sunday School played an important role in elementary instruction, despite the short hours of contact between pupil and teacher

Often a free meal would be used as an inducement for the child to attend. And religiosity was still high, despite elements of a more secular society coming in

In Glasgow in 1890, Protestant Sunday School scholars could claim 65 per cent of all 5 to 15 year olds, many of whom would also attend the YMCA, the Boys Brigade, and the Band of Hope

Yet the importance of the reform was to break the link between one's own religious denomination and one's educational experience

It was to be further cracked by the establishment of elected School Boards after 1872, taking the running of schools away from the preserve of the parish. Women were able to vote in these elections, unlike the parliamentary election, and the notable Flora Stevenson became the first chair of the Edinburgh School Board in 1900

The School Boards were responsible to the Scotch Education



■ Sir William Smith with the 1st Glasgow Boys Brigade in 1895.

Department, set-up to oversee these changes, and which cemented the grip of Westminster and London where it was based on Scottish affairs and governance

Elementary education had become the one institutional experience all Scots shared. In 1877 there were over 350,000 pupils in Scottish elementary education, the overwhelming majority of whom were under the age of 13.

According to the Argyll Commission report of 1866, girls made up around 40 per cent of school pupils at the various burgh and independent secondary schools

This percentage dropped once the age of 16 was passed and girls were not to be found in the High Schools and Academies of Glasgow and Edinburgh

Education for girls tended to be marked by extremes: the cheaper burgh schools, on the one hand, and the fee paying single-sex schools on

the other. Secondary education was very ad hoc, with the reform of 1872 doing little to change this, principally because of the lack of central government funding.

Most of these schools continued to rely on charity and fees, and many did this successfully, offering a mix of science and classical subjects, although the less successful were no more than glorified parochial schools

Secondary education rarely served the children of the non-professional classes, but there was help for those who could not afford fees

One of the lasting influences on the Scottish education scene were the boarding schools or 'hospitals', which were founded by charitable endowment

George Heriot's was the oldest 'hospital' in Scotland, followed by James Watson's through by the Argyll and Perth. There were a range of other 'hospitals', including George Watson's, James Watson's and Gillespie's, being the most notable

One of the latter was of a higher class than the others, James Watson's was intended to benefit members of the middle-class with philanthropic traditions who were currently in a state of 'genteel impoverishment'

A few of the 'hospitals', like Fettes, became 'public schools' on the structure established in England

It did little to arrest a long-term trend of Scottish education stratified by class and income, which is perhaps surprising considering the deep-rooted tradition that Scotland is an egalitarian nation, and particularly so when the spotlight



'Lads o' pairs' could still find their way on to university, but 'lasses o' pairs' were thin on the ground

falls on education

The 'lad o' pairs' is an important character in this story, the boy from a modest background, taught and sponsored by the local minister, making his way to a university. Sometimes she was a 'lass o' pairs', as the historian Helen Corr has explored, but not too often.

The campaign to promote higher education for women was conducted chiefly by the various Ladies' Educational Associations, formed from the 1860s.

Following the Universities (Scotland) Act 1889, the Scottish universities opened their doors to women in 1892, although medical women were only allowed to become full members of Edinburgh University in 1916.

The mixed quality of secondary education for boys and girls affected the Scottish universities.

There had long been the practice of admitting schoolchildren as undergraduates to make up the numbers. But there developed increasing pressure against this practice, which was seen as merely completing the secondary education of this intake, deferring any higher learning, and ultimately undermining the value of the degrees at the end.

Yet, as part of the Scottish



■ The woodwork class at Baldovan Industrial School for Boys in Dundee. These schools were designed to help them find a job.

tradition, it gave evidence to the proposition that the Scottish universities were the readily obtainable prize for the pupil who worked hard and had ability, whatever their social background.

This story of a free and open society – through education – is analysed most completely in the seminal work of R D Anderson.

His researches have found that the

to all classes, or as cheap, as was popularly believed, and even the day schools were too expensive for the poor to afford.

It is still a powerful myth, and like all myth there are elements of truth which exist and sustain, more so for the universities than for the secondary schools.

Such beliefs have been important for upholding the four-year degree,



■ All hold hands. . . school playground scene at Campbeltown, 1900.

sons of labourers or ploughmen rarely made it from the parish school to the university. Rather, he demonstrates, the greatest number were the sons of the rural middle-class.

In the burgh schools, it was the children of the accountants and doctors and the merchants who dominated the roll.

These boys were the most likely to make it to university, although entry to the schools in the first place was where the class divide was clearest.

Scottish education was not as enlightened as it thought it was in the 19th century. It was not as open

and the general degree, both of which have been challenged by recent changes in student funding arrangements.

The generalist tradition in Scottish education – where philosophy was fundamental to the educational experience – is one that has its roots in the 19th century and was one of Andrew Carnegie, when offering his bequests, was a high profile proponent of prioritising (or the headmaster) needs.

Education in the 19th century saw great reform and much neglect, but its ethos continues to keep Scotland's educational traditions alive. ●

TIMELINE

1911

The Scottish Exhibition is held in Glasgow's Kelvingrove.

1914

August: War is declared between Britain and Germany.

1915

March: 750 of the 2nd Cameronians are lost in six days under subaltern command.

1915

May: 217 Royal Scots are killed in a disastrous railway accident at Gretna Green.

1915

September: Lloyd George declares the War to be a 'war of material'.

1915

December: Churchill's Dardanelles campaign to supply Russia's war effort fails.

1916

January: Prior to Conscription, Scotland has highest proportion of volunteers in the UK.

1916

May: Germany is superior when British and German battle fleets clash off Jutland.

1916

July: Scots soldiers among the many who perish in the Battle of the Somme.

1917

January: enthusiasm for the war effort begins to wane markedly.

1917

December: Annual Munitions production on the Clyde reaches 614,000 tons.

1918

Germany begins to succumb and the War draws to a close.

1919

February: troops deployed to suppress strike action in Glasgow.



■ Rallying round: the Leith Socialist Sunday School banner.

Born writer with a taste for adventure

As a son of the manse, Buchan was a man of religion all his days, but his aspirations made him a writer and his writing turned him into a top government advisor and eventually Governor General of Canada. In the end his dual success was like a character from one of his own bestsellers

John Buchan, author of the immensely-successful and much-filmed thriller *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, died in Montreal in 1940 at the age of 65: he was also Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada, and flags flew at half mast throughout the country in recognition of the service he had given it since his appointment in 1935

The Governor General's residence was a long way from the world of the Free Church manse in which he had grown up as a child in the 1870s and 1880s, and from the Glasgow in which he went to Hutcheson's Grammar School

But Buchan was born with an aspiring ambition and an enormous capacity for concentrated work that allowed him to maintain, throughout his life, a double career as writer and



■ Respected Governor General: Lord Tweedsmuir (extreme left) in Canada at the outbreak of war in 1939.

as public figure. Even as a student at Glasgow University and then at Oxford, he maintained himself by writing stories and novels and editing books for London publishers, just as, in Canada as Governor General, he would complete a biography of the Roman Emperor Augustus (1937), his autobiography *Memory Hold-The-Door* (1940) and a final novel, *Sick Heart River* (1940).

Buchan's public career and his engagement in the Empire began in 1901 when he went to South Africa as one of the staff of Lord Milner to assist in the reconstruction of the country after the Boer War. It was a context that he was to use in the

most successful of his early works, *Prester John* (1910), which he wrote as a boy's story for the Edinburgh-based publishing company, Thomas Nelson, of which he had become a director and whose popular reprint series he edited.

By 1914, with most of his co-directors in uniform, he was in almost sole charge of the company and remained an active director until the late 1920s. Southern Africa was also to provide the background for his most famous protagonist, Richard Hannay, whose adventures in *The Thirty-nine Steps* (1915), *Greenmantle* (1916) and *Mr Standfast* (1919) were to make Buchan the doyen of thriller writers

in the inter-war period

Those novels were written, however, as relaxation at the time when he was not only managing Nelson's but writing for it a fortnightly history of the First World War as it was happening. Buchan's account of the War, together with articles he wrote for *The Times* describing British operations, were sufficiently influential that he was brought into the Foreign Office as a Colonel in the Intelligence service and then into the War government as Director of Information.

His task was to organise the news coverage of the War and maintain the support of the civilian population in Britain as well as influencing opinion

in the United States towards support of Britain and France. In this key role, Buchan had access not only to all the leaders of the British forces, but to the Prime Minister, Lloyd George

It was a position at the heart of government which he was to repeat in the 1920s when, as the Tory MP for the Scottish Universities after 1927, he was the personal friend both of Stanley Baldwin, the Conservative leader, and of Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour leader

When MacDonald became the head of the National Government in 1931, deserted by most of his party, Buchan became his close ally, meeting him for breakfast each morning and planning his day's activities

This world of wealth, success and high politics became the regular environment of Buchan's popular fiction, his protagonists' adventures framed by meetings in London clubs and country house parties

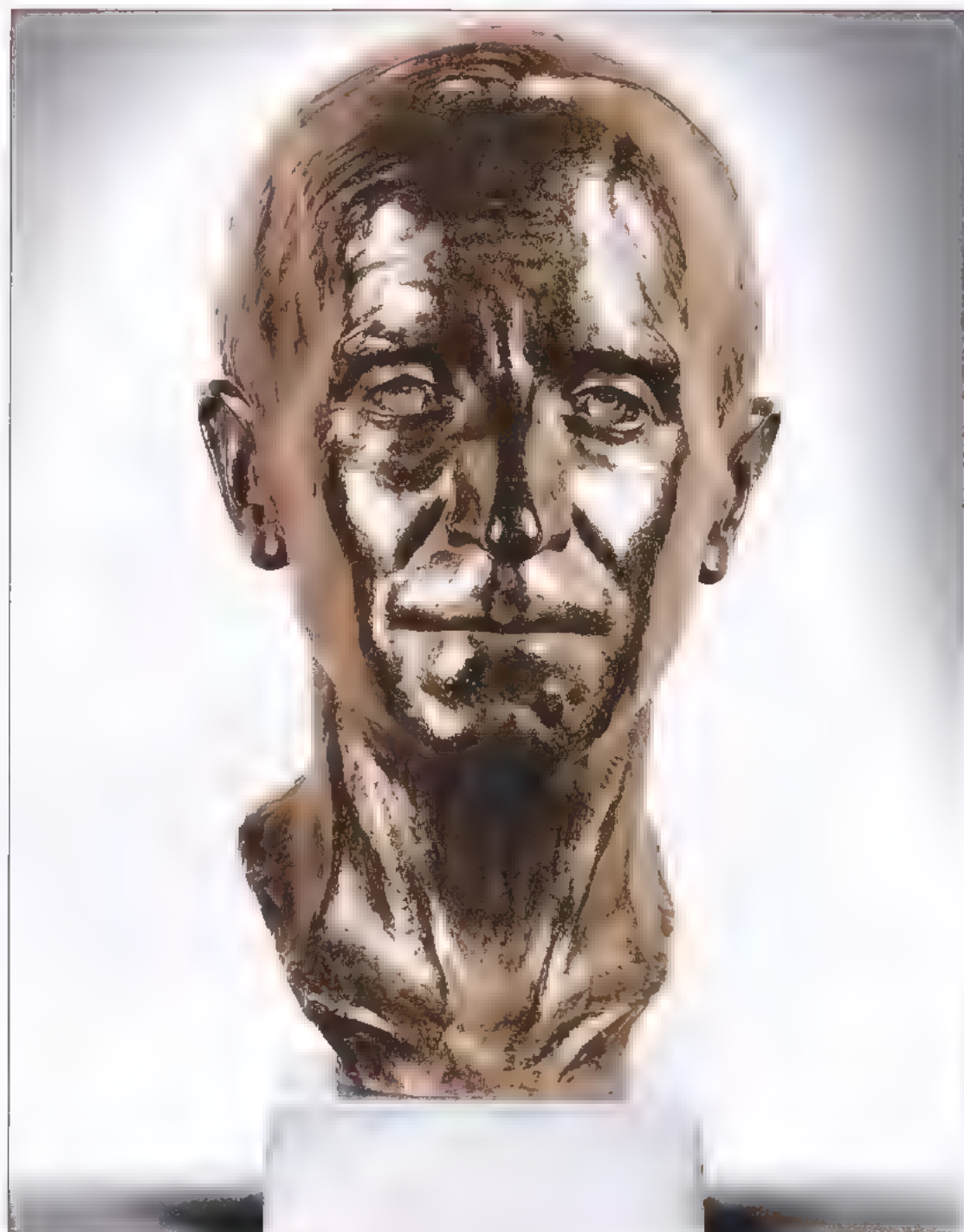
At the same time, however, Buchan was deeply committed to Scottish culture. He wrote poems in Scots (published in *Poems, Scottish and English* in 1917), and produced *The Northern Muse* (1924), an influential anthology of the traditions of Scottish poetry back to the Makars.

He supported Hugh MacDiarmid's early ventures and was influential in the establishment of the National Library of Scotland.

Deeply committed to his family, who remained in Scotland, Buchan encouraged his sister Anna in her writing career, which was to have significant success in a series of novels produced under the pseudonym of O Douglas

He wrote almost daily to his mother, especially after the death of her youngest son in the First World War, and her moment of greatest pride in her successful son was when he was appointed in 1933 to be the High Commissioner for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland – a role in which he represented the monarch and which, to her Free Church eyes, was only slightly less eminent than the Moderator's role she had early on hoped he would achieve.

His Scottish commitments were also evident in much of his writing, in his biographies of Montrose (1928) and of Sir Walter Scott (1932), as well as in some of the best of his serious fiction, particularly his most important novel, *Witch Wood* (1927), which is a study in the religious conflicts of



■ Forged in the Scottish tradition: Sir John Buchan, 1st Lord Tweedsmuir, by Thomas John Clapperton.

Buchan saw himself in direct line of other great Scottish writers in the mould of Scott and Stevenson

the 17th century

Buchan saw himself in the direct line of descent from Scott and Stevenson – the sometimes melodramatic plots of his thrillers are underpinned by the particularities of landscape and an enthusiasm for the common people which he shares with them.

In his stories of Dickson McCunn the retired Glasgow bourgeois with

a romantic imagination, who first appears in *Huntingtower* (1922), and the *Gorbals Die Hards* who abet him in his adventures, he pays tribute to both McCunn being modelled on Baillie Nicol Jarvie from Scott's *Rob Roy* and the *Die Hards* on the boy-adventurers of Stevenson's fiction

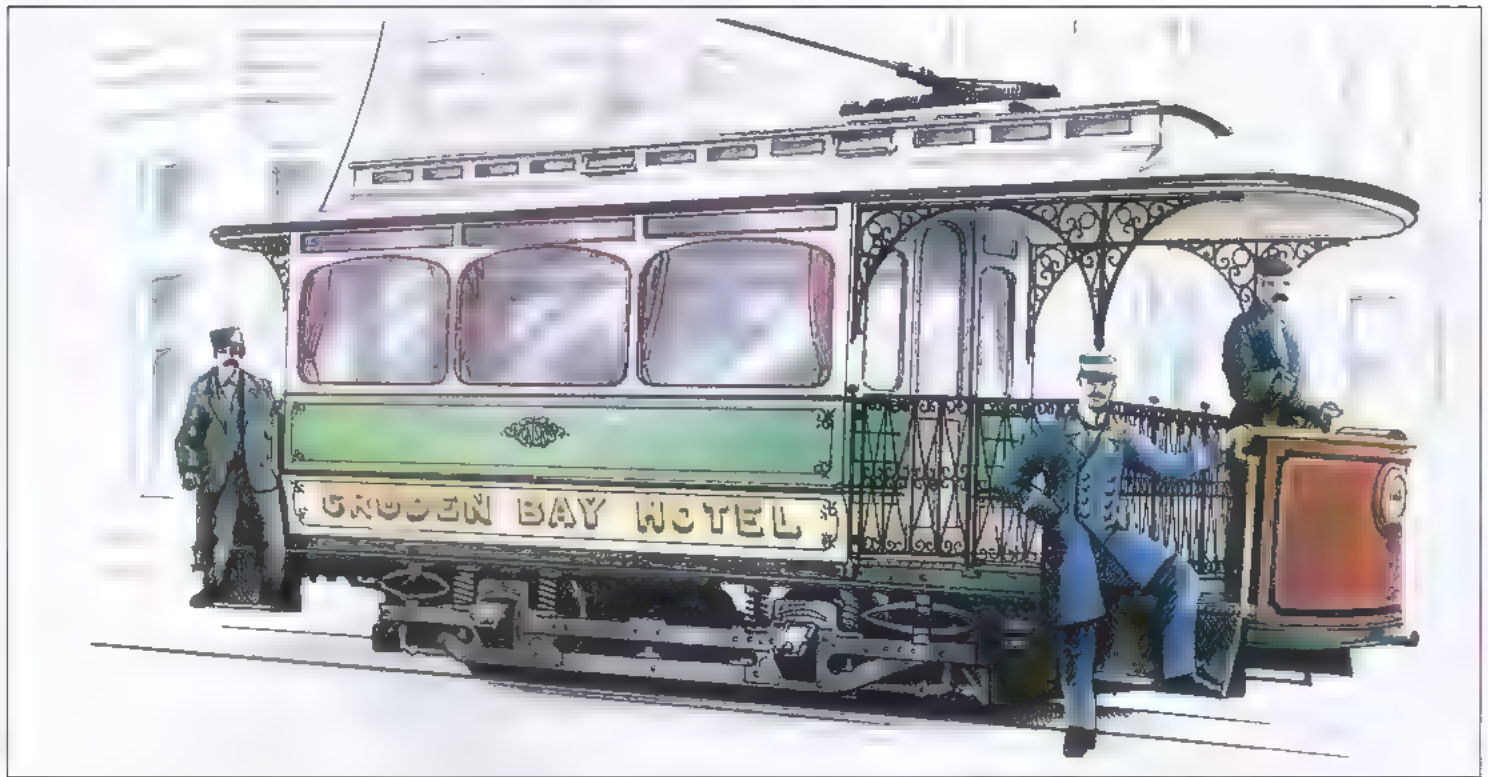
Buchan's 'serious' fiction continues to attract attention within Scottish literature, but it is his thrillers,

prototypes for the later James Bond novels (whose author was also of Scottish background), that remain the basis of his international reputation.

Graham Greene in England and Francois Mauriac in France both acknowledged their influence on their own writing style, responding to the sense of a new and modern style that T E Lawrence described in a letter of 1933:

The books are like athletes racing: so clean lined, speedy, breathless. For our age they mean nothing: they are sport, only. But will a century hence disinter them and proclaim him the great romancer of our blind and undeserving generation? ●

King Tram is dead, long live the trams



■ The Great North of Scotland Railway operated this little tram to play between Cruden Bay Station and the Cruden Bay Hotel in 1999.

Trams began when Victoria was Queen and the sun never set on the British Empire. They appeared in Scotland's streets from 1870 onwards, ultimately working some 26 separate undertakings as far apart as Ayr and Cruden Bay. But by the late 1940s, they were becoming unwanted and unloved, and were gracelessly allowed to die.

Only Glasgow held on to them into the 1960s, and by then the city trams were barely a shadow of what had once been the largest single tramway system in the UK.

Tramways flourished because to the Victorians, trams represented a sure method of shifting people fast: people to work the mills, the mines, the shops, the businesses.

Trams caught on in a way that early transport planners could never have guessed, not just with the working classes for whom systems like Wemyss in Fife were designed, but in genuine egalitarian fashion.

While Glasgow put out its best

Purple-and-gold in Edinburgh, green-and-orange in Glasgow, the trams caught the public's imagination. But don't write them off, for they may be planning a comeback...

cars on the middle-class Dumbreck to University-run and Edinburgh likewise for Morningside and Aberdeen for Hazlehead – these same trams would also ply the poorer areas.

Trams had their beginnings in private enterprise. When Glasgow Tramway & Omnibus Company opened its first service from St George's Cross to Eglinton Toll in 1872, tramway mania raged across the western world from Warsaw to New York.

Services were sedately horse-drawn, of course, and people trundled through the streets of Scotland's major cities as well as the burghs of Kilmarnock, Dumbarton, Dunfermline, Perth, Greenock,

Airdrie, Paisley and Musselburgh. Tramway fever even spread offshore to the island of Bute, with Rothesay making substantial investment for a system that served both the town and the holiday destination of Firth Bay.

From day one, the public flocked to trams, and proprietors were quick to market their ideas. Ha'penny fares became all the rage, and fears were expressed that the youth of Scotland could lose the use of their legs, such was the enthusiastic adoption of this hi-tech travel.

Even the obvious discomforts of wooden seats and exposed top-decks couldn't deter enthusiastic passengers. Trams provided the ideal

platform for advertisers, and signs for 'Sunlight Soap' soon blazoned their message across the streets of the nation.

Tramway companies generally leased the rights to run on the road. So when leases began to run out, town councils were quick to establish municipal departments to take over operations. This was the Victorian era of great civic pride, and cities vied with each other in creating fleets of tramcars in glorious colours. Glasgow in orange and green, Dundee and Aberdeen using green and cream, while Edinburgh chose regal purple and cream.

The more progressive councils realised that the days of horsepower were limited. Steam trams had been tried but never caught on. Stirling rather boldly experimented with petrol-driven trams. Alone in Scotland, Edinburgh built a cable-drawn system, where huge cables some several miles long moved below the streets at constant speed,

with a tram on the surface lowering a gripper through a slot in the road to catch the cable and start the motion forward

It was an odd idea, one which lives on today in San Francisco, but the Edinburgh venture proved to be a minor wonder of the world. Visitors soon got used to the fact that all day long, a low rumble rose from below the streets, but they also grumbled that the same rumble continued right through the night for if the cable stopped, city



■ Edinburgh, 1953: and a city tram heads for Granton Road.

Aberdeen held a mass burning of its stock, later cited as Scotland's worst act of municipal vandalism

transport ground to a halt. The capital greatly prided itself on its cable-drawn system and only converted to electricity in 1922.

Transport historians still point to this day as part of the roadway outside the post office building in Waterloo Place.

The biggest boost to genuine modernisation came with electricity, and from the 1890s this new-fangled source of power gave operators everywhere the chance to develop faster and better tramcars.

The heights were reached in the 1930s when Aberdeen produced a crop of magnificent double-bogied streamliners gliding along the prime No 1 'Bridges' route, Bridge of Don to Bridge of Dee, and visitors to Glasgow's Empire Exhibition of 1938 were conveyed to and from the site at Bellahouston on a fleet of brand new 'Coronation' cars, hailed by one commentator as "the finest short-haul passenger vehicle in Europe."

Introduction of buses in the 1920s

Initially produced beneficial spin off for trams, with many replaced or substantially upgraded. Speed and comfort became marketing watchwords. Route extensions stretched the wires into new areas of operation, with Glasgow investing in large mileages of reserved track separate from the streets and where high speed was the norm.

Those were halcyon days when every respectable town had its own tramway, or so the legend runs. The truth is that small tramways had run their course by the 1920s. Most still used original timber-bodied tramcars with wooden longitudinal seating.

Running on broken rails and worn points, cars were regularly derailed. Each jolt and jar further increased the wear on bogies, bodies and trackwork. Trams that had once been sources of pride such as those in Falkirk were now worn out and fading, too slow and uncomfortable to compete with bus competition.

Swiftly the tiddlers vanished, with Perth falling victim to the effects of the National Strike of 1926 and trams to Loch Lomond being abandoned in 1937.

As the worn out anachronisms vanished so the emphasis changed, and the bulk of remaining tramways

were well-maintained and well patronised for the efficient service they were.

Perhaps they were uneconomic in today's terms of direct profitability, but the service they provided in getting Scotland to work and play 365 days of the year in all weathers proved their worth; and this was recognised in the extensions built to serve new housing developments of the 1930s, such as Glasgow's reserved track in the centre of Great Western Road from Knightswood to Blairdardie.

The future in the West of Scotland seemed assured, especially when the city fathers followed up the success of the much loved 'Coronation' cars of 1937 by designing and introducing 'Cunarders' of 1948. There was even a final fling in 1954 of upgrading secondhand 'Green Goddesses' from Liverpool for the busiest routes along Glasgow's Argyle Street.

But whispers of anti tram propaganda were being



■ Rothesay, 1920: trams provide a service for townsfolk and adventure for visitors on the long run through open country to Ettrick Bay.

surprisingly relayed into council chambers. 'Trams hold up private cars' became the mantra, and the apparent inflexibility of the rail bound tram was viewed as impeding progress.

Trams were outdated, nasty and served little useful purpose, so the critics said. Public confidence began to be shaken and the image of trams never recovered. Edinburgh joined Dundee in scrapping its trams in 1956, the same year that Glasgow axed longer distance services to Paisley, Coatbridge and Milngavie.

Aberdeen's last tram ran in 1958 with the entire fleet being taken to the Beach and set on fire – an act later described as 'Scotland's worst act of municipal vandalism'.

The final act was played out in Glasgow on one wet September evening in 1962, when over a quarter of a million people turned out in the rain to bid a fond farewell to Scotland's last tram.

The story might have finished there, with a tram or two mutely on display in a museum somewhere. Instead, it stepped the enthusiasts determined that the memory of trams deserved better.

So trams from Cruden Bay, Falkirk, Dundee, Edinburgh, Paisley and Glasgow have not only been preserved in working order, but a score now operate in the National Tramway Museum in Derbyshire. Several make regular guest appearances on the tram route along Blackpool Prom.

In 1988, the appearance of four Scottish trams working a special line

at the Glasgow Garden Festival thrilled tens of thousands of visitors, and introduced the delights of tram travel to a new generation.

As if to prove that these heritage trams represent an era that's dead but won't lie down, a small fleet of trams, including a restored Lanarkshire car, operate a daily service at Summerlee Heritage Park in Coatbridge.

Public views change, and the intrinsic value of trams is now recognised as especially attractive, an image of success, cleanliness and speed. Above all, they are the original pollution-free vehicles.

New systems have been reintroduced in England in Sheffield, Croydon and Manchester with a dozen more schemes mooted from Bristol to Newcastle, with the Manchester system now substantially extended to cater for an explosion in passenger use.

Recent years in Scotland have witnessed several attempts to bring trams to Edinburgh and Glasgow, efforts that have so far proved abortive.

But for how much longer? Pressure grows for radical change to alleviate Scotland's urban gridlock, and tramway restoration is surely only a matter of time.

How long it takes for a new generation of trams to glide once more along Princes Street is anybody's guess.

But the ghosts of Edinburgh's old purple-and-cream double-deckers must be quietly smiling. ■

New team makes the fighting finest



Their links are in both Lowlands and Highlands, their joint honours grace the British army

As we have already shown in this series, the Scottish regiments are renowned for their bravery in battle but also for their amazing adaptability. Few can demonstrate these qualities as much as the Royal Highland Fusiliers and the forerunners of this great regiment, which was given its present name in 1959 after almost three centuries of change and amalgamation.

Just for example, these battling Scots were sent to Australia in the 19th century to guard the convicts transported there, and more than a century later they were involved in the hi-tech Gulf War to retake Kuwait from the Iraqis.

So while 'fusilier' comes from the old word fusil, meaning a flintlock musket, this is clearly a regiment which has embraced every transformation that the years have thrown at it.

The RHF is also known as Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment, and that explicitly shows its present roots in the south west. Yet it is a Highland regiment, and its pattern of amalgamations reflects some great



■ The way they were: early days of the Highland Light Infantry, now part of the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

traumas of Scottish history.

For example, it originated from the Earl of Mar's Regiment of Foot ('Mar's Grey Breeks') formed in 1678 specifically to fight the Covenanters in the south-west but also from Macleod's Highlanders, raised in 1777 by an heir to the earldom of Cromarty, who had been theoretically stripped of his title for his Jacobite sympathies.

Indeed, he was one of Prince Charlie's host imprisoned in the Tower of London after the failure of the '45 Rising. But he didn't lose his chiefly status among his clansmen, and so was confusingly

given the appellation 'John Mackenzie, known as Lord Macleod'.

So both sides of the religious divide are represented in the regiment's past. A third element is the 74th Highland Regiment of Foot, raised in 1787 by Major General Sir Archibald Campbell of Inverneil for government service.

Although this was originally a kilted regiment, it had to recruit most of its troops in the Lowlands and Glasgow. For the same reason, Macleod's Highlanders had also recruited in Glasgow. As the Industrial Revolution led many

Highlanders to that great and developing city in the search for work, so all three had strong Glasgow links while retaining their Highland roots.

Over the centuries, the Earl of Mar's Regiment was renamed Scotch Fusiliers, then on the Union of Parliaments to Royal North British Fusiliers, and eventually to Royal Scots Fusiliers.

In 1712, along the way, it had been given the additional title Marlborough's Own in recognition of its outstanding service abroad.

One of its campaigns was in America where it helped to win a

battle outside Washington, then moved into the capital and devoured the banquet which had been optimistically laid out for the President to celebrate a British defeat. A rare fringe benefit for 18th-century infantrymen.

Meanwhile, Macleod's Highlanders and the 74th went through several changes of name until they were amalgamated in 1881 to become the Highland Light Infantry, one of the most revered regimental names in the history of Scots at war. Yet Glasgow was still their recruiting base and it wasn't until 1947 that these soldiers again won the right to wear the kilt, in Mackenzie tartan.

Then in 1959 came the amalgamation when the Royal Scots Fusiliers united with the Highland Light Infantry to become the Royal Highland Fusiliers. The proud letters HLI remain on their cap badges.

Looking back over the achievements of this splendid regiment, you will find the astonishing total of 20 Victoria Crosses, awarded to those whose ranks varied from fusilier to lieutenant-colonel, between 1858 and 1945. This is truly an outstanding record. ●

■ On patrol: the famous grey horses of the Royal Scots Greys, now the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, are for ceremonial only, and in their place are the 'iron steeds' of today – the Challenger battle tanks.



Glory for Ensign Ewart

After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, Napoleon referred to 'les terribles chevaux gris' – the terrible grey horses.

He had seen the Royal Scots Greys, in a mass cavalry charge with the Royal Dragoons and the Inniskilling Dragoons, plough their way through two French columns and capture the imperial eagle of his crack troops, the French 45th Regiment.

More than 200 Scots cavalymen and 200 of their fine horses were killed or wounded in this epic battle.

Today, the cap badge of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers & Greys) carries a reproduction of that eagle and the proud battle honour 'Waterloo'. The French

standard is now kept in Edinburgh Castle where there is also the tomb of the man who captured it, the history-making Ensign Ewart.

Apart from being a senior regiment, this is Scotland's only regular cavalry unit, now equipped with tanks and operating as part of the Royal Armoured Corps. Its roots are in three parts.

The Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons grew from a force formed in 1678 by General Jam Dalrymple of The Binn to harry the Covenanters, and its tradition of splendid grey mounts dated from this bloody start.

Then there were the 4th and 9th Regiments of Horse, raised in England in the 1680s, and combined in 1922 to become

the 3rd Carabiniers (a carbine was a small musket issued to light cavalry troopers).

The Carabiniers and Greys were amalgamated in 1971 with the traditions of the Scots regiment dominant.

The earlier battle honours of the Greys were won fighting for King Charles II, then King William in the Netherlands, after which they found themselves in action against the Jacobites at Sheriffmuir.

During the 18th century the Greys fought again in the Netherlands, then Germany during the Seven Years' War, before service at home and their desperate triumph at Waterloo.

Their 19th century actions continued in the Crimea where they took part in the

Charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaklava – not so famous but more effective than the Charge of the Light Brigade.

They then served in South Africa, in the First World War, and afterwards in Palestine and India. By 1941 this was the last surviving cavalry regiment still partly mounted, but it was mechanised in time to fight in North Africa in the turn-of-the-tide desert battle of El Alamein. It later played an important part in the Normandy landings and the subsequent breakout.

The regiment that became the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, equipped with Challenger tanks, played a key role from the start of the land offensive in the 1991 Gulf War.

The great exhibitions were 'Disneylands'

They were spectacles of splendour, visitors arrived by the million and Glasgow benefited from the profits. Some of the legacies are still around, discovers biker historian David Ross



In the late 1800s, when Britain was still at the height of its power on the world stage, Scotland decided to assert its part by staging exhibitions on a grand scale.

Most of us will remember the Glasgow Garden Festival of 1988, complete with the giant Coca Cola rollercoaster on the banks of the Clyde, and the reappearance of the Glasgow trams – even if they did only run up and down a few hundred metres of track within the festival environs.

Within the few years since the Garden Festival, the site has changed hugely, with much development taking place on a site that was originally Glasgow's dockland.

But the earlier festivals are largely forgotten – simply due to the ever changing population of Scotland – and the details are now just numbers in dusty archives interspersed with grainy black and white photographs. Nonetheless, they were huge successes and they catapulted Edinburgh, Glasgow and Scotland forward on a global scale.

Edinburgh had staged an international exhibition in 1886, but the first great Glasgow Exhibition in 1888, the year Celtic FC was founded, was bigger by far than anything that had gone before.

The venue for this huge undertaking was the present Kelvingrove Park. Walking the paths today along the banks of the River Kelvin, it is difficult to picture the huge multi-coloured and exotic-looking pavilions which were constructed to emphasise Glasgow's status as 'Second City of the Empire'.

At the same time plans for the exhibition were being drawn up, a competition was started to design a fitting City Chambers for Glasgow. The winning entry was, of course, today's impressive building overlooking George Square which, I am informed, is the largest brick building in Europe, the stone exterior being merely a facade.

The runner-up also had his design put into construction by the Scottish Co-operative Society as its headquarters, and stands hard alongside the Clyde at the south-east corner of the Kingston Bridge. This building is currently being converted into modern flats and apartments.

Glasgow was determined to show that



■ The 'Burma Pavilion' was part of the great 1938 Glasgow Exhibition.

it could be as lavish in its self-promotion as any other city in the world. The admission fee for the 1888 Exhibition was one shilling (5 pence) and a total of 5,748,379 people passed through the turnstiles.

The profits were used to construct the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, which stands on part of the 1888 Exhibition grounds today. Admission to this gallery is free (although donations are always welcome), and the building itself is as much of an exhibit as any artefact on display within. Victorian opulence is evident in every view within the building, whether gazing up at the lofty ceilings, or from its galleries down to ground-floor level.

There is a strange urban myth prevalent in Glasgow which I first heard as a child, that this gallery was accidentally constructed back to front, and the architect, on seeing the completed work, committed suicide in despair. This is not true, of course, but it is such a widespread story that I would love to know its origin.

If you visit Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, take a look at the bridge over the Kelvin a little east of the building, on Kelvin Way. There is a large bronze statue at each corner. The one on the north-east corner was struck by a bomb from a German aircraft during

World War II and had to be reconstructed. A little plaque tells the story.

It was decided to mark the opening of Kelvingrove in 1901 by holding another great exhibition, and this one proved so popular that almost 11.5 million people attended.

The pavilions were staggering in their splendour, the 'Industrial Hall' looking something like the ancient Hagia Sofia mosque of Istanbul. Today nothing remains but the site which, like the earlier exhibition, was situated around the modern Kelvingrove Park.

We can only imagine the gondolas carrying passengers along the river, and the early roller-coaster rides or 'switchbacks' as they were known, which were huge crowd-pullers. After all, these exhibitions were the 'Disneylands' of their day.

A third great exhibition, the last to be held at Kelvingrove, took place in 1911, but it had a different theme from its predecessors, being geared towards promoting a more Scottish flavour.

The last great exhibition to be held before the dark days of the Second World War was at Bellahouston Park. This was the Empire Exhibition of 1938. One remnant survives – the Palace of Arts, a little reminder of the glory days of spellbinder exhibitions. ●

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the top, the Somme 1916; Daily
Mirror: Gordon Highlanders' officers'
mess, behind the Somme; HMS
Repulse. WW1 by David Muirhead
Bone; NMS: German Fleet scuttled in
Scapa Flow; Daily Record: Production
line of tanks; SCRAN/Mitchell
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p11/12/13 Troops in Glasgow, 1919;
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p14/15/16/17 Huntarian;
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Institute; Souvenirs SCRAN.
p18/19/20 Lloyd George; Daily
Mirror: John Bannerman; Leith Reform
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Pettie; NGS.
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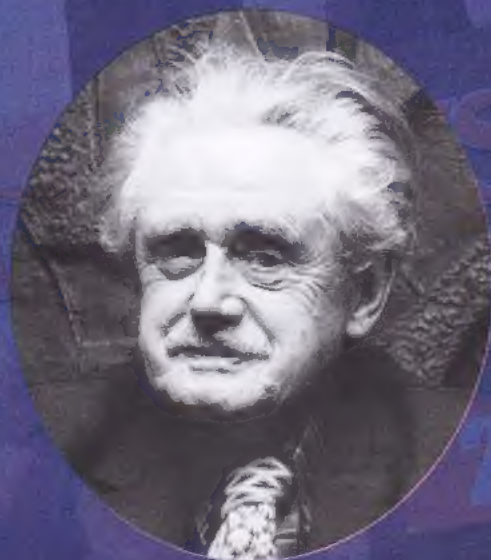
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SCOTLAND'S STORY

NEXT WEEK IN PART 47



POETIC GENIUS

Hugh MacDiarmid's ambition was give Scottish culture a truly European standing. He fought a war of words against the legacy of Burns and Scott, was an intellectual advocate of nationalism and communism, and wrote some of the most important poetry of the age...

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The Millennium Festival includes over 15,000 individual projects made possible by funding from the National Lottery. From carnivals to concerts, country fairs to sports days, art exhibitions to street parades, the Millennium Festival is the greatest celebration the world has ever seen and it's happening near you.

Wherever you live, Millennium Festival events invite you to take part, have fun and join together to celebrate the year 2000.

For details of Millennium Festival events in Scotland visit www.millenniumscotland.co.uk or call our Scottish office on 01259 219 905

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